

July 20, 2012

# Weekly Views

Congratulations to this semester's Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) scholarships winners: Amos Olajimbiti (RDC), Commissioner's Scholarship; Alyssia Newby (PNJ), Public Safety Scholarship; Mauya Stover (COA), Public Service Scholarship; Tabitha Glenn (Camp Summit), supplies scholarship; Sharon Noble (BTC, wife of Sgt. Joseph Noble), supplies scholarship; Brittany Sherron (RTC, daughter of Brenda Sherron), supplies scholarship; and Christina LeBlanc (CIF, daughter of Donald N. LeBlanc), supplies scholarship. (See photo below of CPAFI Scholarship recipient Mauya Stover and Chief of Staff Amanda Copeland)

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) welcomed the arrival of eight dogs to the facility's new Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) program. The event began with a "meet and greet" session for the dogs, Duet, Aria, Mac, Tina, Harmony, Melody, Maestro, and Minuet, and their handlers. The handlers then received a short instructional lesson on leash application. CIF is the state's third correctional facility to offer the ICAN program, joining the Indiana Women's Prison and Plainfield Correctional Facility.



Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted its first ever Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Program (RRRP) graduation. RRRP is an Indiana Department of Correction program designed to provide residents with programs and understanding for four core values: honesty with himself and with others, tolerance of the views and beliefs of others, caring for others, and personal responsibility. 48 residents completed the six month program in which they participated in various educational classes, programming, and seminars. Each graduate also completed a required amount of community service hours, earning a three month time cut from their sentences. IDOC and IREF staff, volunteers, family members and guests of the graduates attended the event. A reception honoring the graduates followed the ceremony. (See photo below of the first class of RRRP graduates and the program facilitators)



It is a first-ever event for the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) and the Greenfield Creative Arts and Event Center, an exhibition by artists housed at WVCF. "Unchained Art" currently features original black and white and color pencil art work. Wabash Assistant Superintendent Kevin Gilmore and Recreation Coordinator Mike Miller attended the opening reception for the exhibition, which was recently featured in the Indianapolis Star.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's "Knit Wits", a group of Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program offenders, completed a collection of hats and scarves to be donated

to an orphanage in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. They are taught knitting by Donna Olson, a 17 year volunteer at the facility, and make at least two donations of knitted items yearly to orphanages throughout to world.

Westville Correctional Facility honored the graduation of 44 offenders from the PLUS program. The offender graduates celebrated their accomplishment with staff, friends, family and volunteers from the PLUS program. Guest speaker and Program Director, Ms. Sandy Sharp, acknowledged their dedication and hard work. She expressed her high expectations of the graduates as they leave the unit to pursue other programming assignments. The graduates and guests enjoyed baked goods from the facility's Culinary Arts program.

Administrative personnel at the Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Staff Assembly to update staff on new initiatives at the facility and to recognize employees for various accomplishments. Physical Plant Department Secretary Jill Davidson was recognized as Employee of the Quarter and Lieutenant Michael Caylor was announced as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter.

Ten offenders from the Indiana State Prison held a 2012 Speech Competition sponsored by the Continuing Education Council and Toastmasters Internationals "Seriously Speaking Gavel Club". Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality and helps men and women learn the art of speaking, listening, and thinking-vital skills that promote self-actualization.